

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 TRSE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00

EB-03 L-02 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01

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P 211216Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7556

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13678

LIMDIS

SHAPE FOR INTAF: DEPT ALSO PASS TO TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GW, US, MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BURDEN SHARING

REF: (A) BONN 12729, (B) BONN 13499, (C) USNATO 4400

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, RELIABLE FONOFF
NATO DEPT REP RECALLED OUR SEPT 4 DISCUSSION OF BURDEN-
SHARING (REF A) AND SAID FORCEFUL PRESENTATION BY
USNATO CHARGE AT SEPT 18 PERM REPS LUNCH ALREADY HAD
BEEN NOTED VERY CAREFULLY BY GERMAN OFFICIALS. FONOFF
REP SAID HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SERIOUSNESS
OF MANSFIELD PRESSURES AND USG MOTIVATIONS ON BURDEN
SHARING WERE FULLY UNDERSTOOD IN BONN. ON THE OTHER
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HAND, OUR SOURCE SAID HE FELT BOUND TO TELL US AGAIN

THAT A GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO MULTILATERAL BURDEN SHARING WAS JUST NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE. HE SAID THIS IS DUE TO STRONG SPD PARTY PRESSURES ON DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER, THE DIFFICULTY OF SUSTAINING INCREASED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES WITH GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION AND THE STRONG CONCERN THAT OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES ALSO WOULD PRESS FOR BOP RELIEF.

2. OUR SOURCE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT USNATO CHARGE'S APPEAL FOR AN ACT OF POLITICAL WILL WAS "A KIND OF CRI DE COEUR." FONOFF REP, AS A LONGTIME FIRM SUPPORTER OF U.S. TROOP PRESENCE, EUROGROUP AND BURDEN-SHARING, WISHED TO MAKE A SIMILAR CRI DE COEUR. LEBER WAS DOING HIS UTMOST AS A STAUNCH BELIEVER IN THE TRADITIONAL U.S. AND ALLIANCE BASES OF FRG FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY. BUT THERE WERE POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL LIMITS TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S ROOM FOR MANEUVER - LIMITS WHICH FONOFF REP SAID WOULD BECOME CLEARLY DISCERNIBLE IN THE BILATERAL OFFSET NEGOTIATIONS, AND LIMITS WHICH HE AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD SOUGHT TO DEFINE FOR US (REFS A & B).

3. FONOFF REP SAID HE WISHED TO APPEAL TO US NOT TO PUSH BONN TOO HARD ON MULTILATERAL BURDEN SHARING AS SUCH PRESSURE COULD NOT BRING PRODUCTIVE RESULTS BUT COULD PLACE DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION WITHIN HIS PARTY AND IN THE COUNTRY.
HILLENBRAND

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